

**SACRAMENTO HISTORY CENTER
SACRAMENTO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES SURVEY ORAL HISTORY CARD**

Respondent: ROY RUHKALA
Ruhkala Road
Rocklin, Ca.

(Ruhkala Monument Company owner)

Interviewer: Susan Hardwick
Date(s): August 25, 1983
Length(s): 58 minutes
Language(s): English
Setting(s): Ruhkala home in Rocklin

Major Topic(s): FINNS IN ROCKLIN

Comments:

Future Issues/Topics:

Restriction(s) on Use:
☒ Tape ☐ Index ☐ Summary ☐ Transcription ☐ CC ☐ W-Int

SACRAMENTO ETHNIC HISTORY SURVEY BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET

PERSONAL DATA:

Name: ROY RUHKALA

Address: Ruhkala Road
Rocklin, California

Phone: (hm) 624-2306 (wk) 441-2846

Ethnic Affiliation or Identification: FINNISH

Date of Birth: 1919

Place of Birth: Rocklin, California

Father's Name: Matt Ruhkala

Father's Occupation: QUARRY OWNER

Mother's Name: (include maiden name) Eva Steena Aidantausta

Mother's Occupation: Housewife (changed to Erikson in USA)

Number and Sex of Siblings: Five brothers and five sisters

Subject's Length of Residence in Sacramento:

Rocklin -- all his life

Other Important Biographical Information:

Respondent still owns and operates the family granite quarry in Rocklin on Ruhkala Road. He also is the owner of the Ruhkala Monument Company in Sacramento. Leading Finn in the Rocklin area -- he hosts the Old Timer's Reunion every year for Finn residents.

ROY RUHKALA INTERVIEW

By Susan Hardwick
Sacramento History Center
August 25, 1983

SIDE A

0 Introduction

- 23 Parents were both born in Finland. Father born in 1869, migrated to United States in 1888. Mother was born north of the Arctic Circle (her father was a trader in Lapland); she came to this country about 1898 to Berkeley.
- 2:51 Roy's parents settle in Rocklin after living in Berkeley. The quarries drew his father to the Rocklin area. He was married in about 1895, but his wife died in childbirth a year later. His father then remarried in about 1900.
- 4:07 Matt Ruhkala's work in the quarries. . . he learned to cut stone as an apprentice and later owned about four different quarries in Rocklin.
- 5:01 Importance of the railroad to the quarry business. Ruhkala family still owns the last quarry his father owned (on Ruhkala Road).
- 6:23 Ruhkala family originally lived on High Street; had new house built about 1908-High⁸ (Roy born here in 1919). Ruhkalas then moved to the new house on Ruhkala Road in 1919.
- 7:40 Roy grew up with five brothers and five sisters in a typical Finn home. "We learned to talk English fairly shortly," All the children knew English when they went to the first grade. His parents adopted this country ("no question about it!"). . .
- 10:09 All Roy's brothers learned the quarry business from the bottom up -- stonecutting, equipment, bookwork, all phases.
- 10:40 Attended college in Oregon, but continued to work in granite during summer vacations, etc. He has worked in the quarry business all his life.
- 12:06 Roy's war experiences; then he learned the carpentry trade in Klamath Falls, Oregon. . . similar to granite work, and he returned to Rocklin in 1948. He then took over the monument business in Sacramento and the quarries in Rocklin. He has operated these businesses continuously since 1953.

- 13:45 Qualities of Rocklin granite -- white/gray, even grained, good, even color. Opened a black granite quarry at Horseshoe Bar Road in early 40's.
- 14:40 Finns came to Rocklin to work in the quarries; some worked for the railroad until it moved to Roseville. Most worked in the quarries though. There weren't many farmers -- some Finns raised chickens, fruit when granite business was bad. "The majority of them worked in the quarries." The stonecutter was really specialized and served as an apprentice for three or four years.
- 17:55 Finnish store owners, bakeries, etc.
- 18:42 Roy's memories of early Rocklin and the Finns. Events at Finn Hall recalled, schools remembered ("skunk train to high school in Roseville").
- 20:10 Finnish Temperance Society first organized in 1880's in Rocklin. The city was incorporated in 1893 and another Temperance Society was organized about 1900. . . they decided to build a hall and it still stands today. It has had many different owners through the years.
- 22:10 Finnish Brotherhood Society -- it is an international group, like a club. Club is no longer in Rocklin.
- 23:01 Finn Churches: Roy's Dad was a minister at the Apostolic Lutheran Church and there was another Lutheran Church in town also. Younger people who spoke English gradually went to other American churches.
- 24:01 Matt Ruhkala's ministry began about 1915, but he continued to work in the quarries as well.
- 25:20 Apostolic Lutheran Church was located at the Ruhkala property at first; moved in 1919 to corner of Oak and High Streets.
- 26:30 Roy's family in Rocklin? He meets his wife while attending college (graduates in 1942 and is married the same year). Mrs. Ruhkala is a Swede; they have five children.
- 27:52 Awareness of Ruhkala children (third generation) of being Finnish and Swedish.
- 29:10 The Ruhkalas travel to Finland -- feelings about the "old country."

SIDE B

INDEX

- 0 Old steambath was still in the town where his mother had lived in Finland.
- 1:04 Finn saunas: Rocklin steambaths (Kesti's had a public bath). Dressing room, men and women in separate sides; bench at ceiling height, stove and enclosed fire box with rocks on top, bucket of water to pour onto river rocks. "Everybody brings cakes, nissua, coffee and everything to have after the steambath." Often dived right into the cold water in the quarry after the sauna to cool off. Sauna seems to have been a uniquely Finn institution.
- 6:32 Importance of coffee in Finn culture in Rocklin. . . wives would bring it to quarry, or men would carry it to work. Groceries in Rocklin had Finnish breads brought in from Berkeley in early days. Pekoris was main store.
- 8:18 Other early Rocklin buildings: Garages, service stations, bar, groceries, ice cream parlors, general merchandise stores.
- 9:00 Finn social events in Rocklin: Finn picnics in early years, early days in 1910's in Sointula Grove. Rocklin was always noted for picnics -- train would come to Rocklin from the Bay Area.
- 11:10 Other centers of Finnish population in Northern California.
- 11:55 Ethnic groups in Rocklin in the early years -- "it was a mixed population." 1905-1915 - the Spanish people settled in the area. 1910 - the Japanese came to raise fruit in the Rocklin/Loomis area.
- 13:32 Discrimination in Rocklin not a problem among these integrated groups. Finns lived all over town, although the majority lived east of the tracks so they could settle closer together.
- 16:15 Attitudes toward education among the Finns in Rocklin. Most went to school through high school, and many even further. The older generation of Finns could read and write when they arrived in Rocklin and were interested in learning English as quickly as possible.
- 18:30 "Finglish" - Finns who came to Rocklin in 1890's and learned English so quickly that they mixed the two languages together.
- 21:22 Feelings of ethnic identity. . . "Finland is something good to come from". . . Finns definitely were interested in adopting this country as quickly as possible. Finns in Rocklin were a stable population.
- 24:54 Rocklin in the 1980's -- "there are still quite a few of us around."



**Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey -
Finnish Oral Histories
1983/146**

Oral interview of
Roy Ruhkala

August 25, 1983

Conducted by Susan Hardwick

Transcribed by Rocklin Historical Society

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ROY RUHKALA
INTERVIEW BY SUSAN HARDWICK
AUGUST 25, 1983
ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"THIS IS SUSAN HARDWICK OF THE SACRAMENTO HISTORY CENTER. TODAY I WILL BE INTERVIEWING MR. ROY RUHKALA, ONE OF THE LAST FINNS TO OWN A GRANITE QUARRY IN ROCKLIN. MR. RUHKALA IS ALSO THE OWNER OF THE RUHKALA MONUMENT COMPANY IN SACRAMENTO.

"LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR PARENTS FIRST. BOTH OF THEM WERE BORN IN FINLAND?"

BOTH MY PARENTS WERE BORN IN FINLAND. MY DAD WAS BORN IN KALAJOKI, ABOUT MIDWAY UP THE BAY OF BOTHNIA. IT IS RIGHT ON THE BAY. THE TOWN OF KALAJOKI IS RIGHT ON THE BAY AND HE WAS BORN INLAND ABOUT 5 OR 8 MILES, ABOUT WHERE HE WAS RAISED. HE WAS BORN IN 1869. HE LEFT THERE TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES IN ABOUT 1888.

IN THE OLD COUNTRY, MY DAD, ACTUALLY, HIS FOLKS PASSED AWAY WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE KID AND HE WAS ADOPTED FOR A FEW YEARS. RAISED. IN THOSE DAYS THEY DIDN'T HAVE ADOPTION. SOMEONE JUST RAISED THEM. SOME FAMILY TOOK THEM IN. THAT'S WHAT THEY USED TO DO IN THE EARLY DAYS.

MY MOTHER WAS BORN NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. ACTUALLY, HER DAD WAS A TRADER IN LAPLAND. THEY WERE NOT LAPS BUT THEY WERE ACTUALLY TRADERS AND THEY LIVED IN PALAJOENSU, WHICH IS ABOUT 150 MILES, 230-240 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. THEY WERE RAISED THERE. MY MOTHER CAME TO THIS COUNTRY ABOUT 1898. SHE CAME WITH HER SISTERS AND

AND SOME BROTHERS. THEY DIDN'T ALL COME AT ONE TIME BUT SHE HAD A COUPLE OF SISTERS AND THEY ALL WENT NORTH. SHE CAME SOUTH TO BERKELEY FROM NEW YORK. ONE OF THE BROTHERS CAME HERE FOR AWHILE AND WORKED IN THE QUARRIES. THE ONE THAT WORKED HERE ACTUALLY SETTLED IN POULSHO, WASHINGTON, UP OUT OF SEATTLE. THEN, SHE HAD A COUPLE OF OTHER BROTHERS THAT SETTLED DOWN THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

"WHAT BROUGHT YOUR PARENTS TO ROCKLIN?"

MY DAD CAME IN 1889 TO THE ROCKLIN AREA. HE WORKED IN A MINE IN, I THINK, WYOMING FOR AWHILE. THEN HE CAME TO BERKELEY. FROM BERKELEY, THERE WERE FINNS IN ROCKLIN, SO HE CAME TO ROCKLIN. QUARRIES WERE OPERATING, SO HE CAME HERE. HE MARRIED IN, I BELIEVE, 1896 OR 1897. HIS FIRST WIFE DIED. SHE WAS RELATED TO THE , THAT'S ANOTHER FAMILY HERE. THEY LIVED RIGHT DOWN THE STREET FROM MY HOUSE, THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR. HE DIDN'T MARRY ONE OF THE THE GAL WAS RELATED TO THEM, I COULDN'T TELL YOU THE NAME RIGHT NOW. I DO HAVE IT.

SHE DIED IN CHILDBIRTH. SHE DIED A YEAR OR TWO LATER AND SHE IS BURIED IN THE ROCKLIN CEMETARY. THEN MY MOTHER AND DAD WERE MARRIED ABOUT 1900.

"DID YOUR FATHER WORK IN THE QUARRIES?"

HE WORKED IN THE QUARRIES ALL THE TIME. BY THEN, DAD WAS, HE LEARNED TO CUT STONE. HE SERVED AN APPRENTICESHIP. AFTER THAT, HE STARTED GETTING INVOLVED IN THE OWNERSHIP. MY DAD OPERATED FOUR DIFFERENT QUARRIES. AND ALSO, HE WAS AN OWNER OF THE TRAIL HEAD WHERE THE RAILS WENT ONLY SO FAR IN THE TOWN IN THE EARLY DAYS, BEFORE THEY SPREAD THEM OUT TO ALL THE

QUARRIES. HE AND ABOUT THREE OTHER PEOPLE BOUGHT THE LOT BY THE CREEK THERE AND THAT'S AS FAR AS THE TRAINS WENT, SO ALL THE QUARRIES HAULED THEIR GRANITE CURBING, LIKE YOU SEE IN SAN FRANCISCO. IT WAS ALL HAULED TO THIS RAILHEAD, SOME IN BUGGIES, SOME BY OXEN, SOME IN WAGONS, SOME OF THEM BY HORSES, THERE THEY LOADED THEM ONTO THE RAILROAD CARS.

MY DAD OPERATED THE LAST QUARRY, THE RUHKALA HOME QUARRY, IT WAS CALLED, WHICH IS ON RUHKALA ROAD. WE STILL OWN IT. THEN, BEFORE THAT, HE OPERATED THE ONE THAT WAS CALLED MYERS QUARRY IN LATER YEARS. ACTUALLY, MY DAD OPERATED THE ONE THAT IS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET ON ROCKLIN ROAD, ACROSS FROM WHAT IS NOW A & W WAS THE QUARRY HOUSE. ACROSS ROCKLIN ROAD IS WHERE IT IS. IT'S HIDDEN IN THE TREES. I THINK OF THE NEW STREET THAT GOES BY IT, THE SAFEWAY, YOU'LL SEE IT. MY DAD OPERATED THAT FROM PROBABLY 1905 TO 1919.

"WHERE DID YOUR PARENTS LIVE IN ROCKLIN?"

WELL, MY PARENTS LIVED ON HIGH STREET AND THEY LIVED IN ONE HOUSE. I CAN'T TELL YOU THE EXACT DATE BUT PROBABLY AROUND 1907 OR SO, THOSE YEARS, HE HAD THE HOUSE BUILT RIGHT ON THE CORNER OF HIGH STREET AND CEDAR. THEY LIVED THERE UNTIL 1919. I WAS BORN IN 1919, OVER THERE IN THAT HOUSE. THEN WE MOVED AT THE END OF JULY AND BY OCTOBER, WE MOVED OVER TO THE HOME PLACE ON RUHKALA ROAD.

"WERE YOU BORN AT HOME OR IN A HOSPITAL?"

WE WERE ALL BORN AT HOME. AFTER DAD LEFT, WE MOVED. IT BECAME THE SUHONEN HOUSE. THE SUHONEN SON, AMEL, MARRIED SAMMY AND SAMMY STILL LIVES IN THAT HOUSE.

I TELL HER ALL THE TIME SHE HAS TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT,
THAT'S WHERE I WAS BORN, SHE DOES A REAL GOOD JOB,

"HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DID YOU HAVE AS YOU GREW UP?"

I HAVE FIVE BROTHERS AND FIVE SISTERS, WE ALL LEARNED TO
TALK FINNISH.

"WAS THERE A BIG EMPHASIS ON BEING A FINN AT YOUR HOUSE?
DID YOUR PARENTS HAVE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FINN HOLIDAYS AND
LANGUAGE , , ?"

WELL YES, WE DIDN'T GREAT ONES, THE FINNS THAT CAME HERE,
LIKE MY DAD, THEY CAME HERE AND THEY LEARNED TO TALK ENGLISH
PRETTY SHORTLY, SOME OF THE FINNS CAME HERE AND THE KIDS
DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH WHEN THEY WENT TO SCHOOL,
MAYBE MY OLDEST SISTER, WHO RIGHT NOW IS 80, SHE KNEW A
LITTLE ENGLISH BUT AFTER THAT, ALL THE CHILDREN KNEW ENGLISH
WHEN THEY WENT TO THE FIRST GRADE IN OUR FAMILY,

MY DAD SPOKE FINNISH, HE INSISTED THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN
IT, ALTHOUGH, IN OUR HOUSE, IT WAS ALWAYS FINNISH AND ENGLISH,
THEY CAME HERE TO LIVE, THEY ADOPTED THIS COUNTRY, THERE WAS
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, THEY HAD NO REAL TIES WITH FINLAND LIKE
THE MODERN PEOPLE COME OVER, IT'S A DIFFERENT BALL GAME,
IN THOSE DAYS, THEY DIDN'T HAVE THOSE TIES, OR WERE THAT CLOSE,
HE HAD RELATIONS AND THEY WROTE AND SO FORTH BUT IT WASN'T
A CLOSENESS, NOW YOU PICK UP THE TELEPHONE AND TALK TO THEM,

"SO, YOU DID LEARN TO SPEAK FINNISH AND SPOKE IT AT HOME?"

OH YEAH, WE COULD SPEAK FINNISH FROM THE TIME WE WERE RAISED,

"DO VERY MANY OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS STILL LIVE AROUND ROCKLIN ?"

YEAH, ALL THE BROTHERS DO, PRETTY MUCH. I HAVE ONE BROTHER THAT PASSED AWAY, THE ONLY DEATH WE HAVE HAD IN THE FAMILY. SO THERE ARE STILL TEN OF US ALIVE. THE FIVE BOYS, WE LIVE RIGHT HERE. I HAVE ONE BROTHER THAT GOES BACK AND FORTH TO LAKE TAHOE. SUMMERTIME HE IS UP THERE AND OTHER TIMES HE IS HERE. AND ANOTHER ONE THAT SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME NOW IN ALTURAS. BUT THE REST OF US LIVE RIGHT HERE. AND SOME OF OUR NEPHEWS. WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD POPULATION RIGHT HERE.

"HOW MANY OF YOUR BROTHERS WORK IN THE QUARRIES?"

ALL OF US, ALL OF THE BROTHERS LEARNED THE QUARRY BUSINESS. WE LEARNED THE QUARRY BUSINESS FROM THE BOTTOM UP. WE LEARNED TO TAKE THE STONE OUT OF THE GROUND. WE LEARNED TO BE BLACK-SMITHS. WE LEARNED TO REPAIR EQUIPMENT. WE LEARNED TO USE EXPLOSIVES. ALL PHASES OF IT BECAUSE WE HAD TO HIRE PEOPLE. SOMEONE HAD TO KNOW HOW TO SHOW THEM, SO WE LEARNED ALL PHASES OF IT.

"HAVE YOU ALWAYS WORKED WITH GRANITE, THAT'S BEEN YOUR MAIN OCCUPATION?"

ME?

"YES."

WELL, YEAH. I HAVE WORKED WITH GRANITE JUST ABOUT ALL MY LIFE, I GUESS. EVEN WHEN I WENT TO COLLEGE IN OREGON, SUMMER VACATIONS I WORKED WITH GRANITE. ACTUALLY, I EVEN WENT UP TO ECHO

SUMMIT BECAUSE THEY WERE BUILDING A ROAD THERE IN 1938. SO THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN. THEY WERE GOING BROKE BY NOT HAVING NOBODY TO TAKE THE STONE OUT IN SQUARE PIECES TO MAKE THEIR WALL SO THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN. MY BROTHER TOLD ME I SHOULD GO UP THERE AND MAKE A LOT OF MONEY SO I AND BILL ANDERSON, ANOTHER FINN GUY FROM HERE, WE WENT UP THERE AND STARTED WORKING. I WORKED THERE AND MADE GOOD MONEY ALL SUMMER AND STAYED OUT OF SCHOOL THAT ONE YEAR BECAUSE I WAS MAKING GOOD MONEY.

THAT WAS THE TAIL END OF THE DEPRESSION SO IT WORKED OUT GOOD. AND THAT WAS WORKING WITH GRANITE, JUST LIKE I WOULD HERE. ONCE IN A WHILE I WOULD GO UP AND HELP MY BROTHER AT TAHOE IF HE WAS HITTING THE JACKPOT AS A STONE MASON. MOST OF THE TIME WE WORKED EXCEPT THEN WE WENT TO WAR. I SPENT FOUR YEARS IN THE WAR. THEN, AFTER THE WAR, I LEARNED THE CARPENTRY TRADE IN KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON. MY WIFE'S FATHER WAS A BUILDING CONTRACTOR. I SERVED AN APPRENTICESHIP FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS. BY THEN SO MUCH OF IT I HAD LEARNED AND ALL THE TOOLS I HAD LEARNED BEFORE IN THE GRANITE BUSINESS. THEY WERE QUITE SIMILAR IN THE ENGINEERING END AND SO FORTH. BECAUSE WE LEARNED TO BUILD TOO.

SO AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS I WAS LEARNING JOBS IN KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SO THEY MADE ME UNION. I HAD TO BELONG TO THE UNION SO THEY MADE ME TAKE THE TEST AND GET OUT OF THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM. SO I DID THAT AND I WORKED THERE UNTIL WE HIT COLD WEATHER AND THEN I SAID WELL, WE'RE GOING BACK TO ROCKLIN. I GOT A JOB DOWN HERE AND THE WEATHER IS NOT SO COLD. SO WE MOVED BACK DOWN HERE IN ABOUT 1948.

I GOT OUT OF THE ARMY IN 1946 SO IT WAS ABOUT 1949, I THINK WE CAME BACK DOWN HERE. I WORKED IN THE GRANITE BUSINESS.

WORKED IN THE QUARRY. TOOK OVER THE BUSINESS IN SACRAMENTO. THERE WAS A MONUMENT SHOP EXISTING. ONE OF THE MEN HAD DIED AND A LADY WAS RUNNING IT AND SHE DECIDED SHE THOUGHT SHE WOULD RETIRE EVENTUALLY SO SHE SAID "ROY, WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN AND TAKE IT?" SO I WENT DOWN THERE AND TOOK OVER THE OLD McCAFFERY MONUMENT COMPANY. I HAVE OPERATED IT SINCE 1953.

"WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT ROCKLIN GRANITE? WHAT KIND OF GRANITE IS IT, AS FAR AS THE COLOR , , ,?"

WELL, ROCKLIN GRANITE IS A WHITE-GREY, VERY DURABLE, VERY EVEN-GRAINED, VERY HARD. IT'S A GOOD MONUMENT TYPE GRANITE. THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF GRANITE. THIS ONE IS A GOOD, EVEN COLOR. THAT'S THE MAIN COLOR WE HAVE IN ROCKLIN. WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD A BLACK GRANITE QUARRY. WE OPENED IT IN THE EARLY 1940'S. WE OPENED THAT OVER AT HORSESHOE BAR OFF AUBURN-FOLSOM ROAD, THE BLACK GRANITE QUARRY. WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THAT IN OPERATION FOR OUR OWN USE FOR GRANITE FOR MONUMENTS AND SO FORTH.

"DID MOST OF THE FINNS THAT CAME TO ROCKLIN IN THE EARLY DAYS WORK IN THE QUARRIES, IS THAT WHAT BROUGHT THEM HERE, DO YOU THINK?"

I THINK THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN BECAUSE THEY KNEW THERE WERE OTHER FINNS HERE AND THAT THERE WAS WORK HERE. WE HAD THE RAILROAD AND THERE WERE SOME FINNS THAT WORKED ON THE RAILROAD. RAILROAD WAS A BIG THING IN ROCKLIN TOO, UNTIL 1908 AND THEN EVERYTHING MOVED TO ROSEVILLE. BUT, MOSTLY THE FINNS SEEMED TO WORK IN THE QUARRIES MORE THAN THEY DID ON THE RAILROAD. THERE WERE SOME THAT WORKED ALL THEIR LIFE IN THE RAILROAD TOO. THEN PFE CAME INTO BEING IN THE LATER

YEARS AND A LOT OF FINNS RETIRED, BUT THEY WERE THE YOUNGER GENERATION ACTUALLY, IF YOU WANT TO SAY THE ONES BORN AROUND 1900 IN THIS AREA,

"SO FINNS WORKED IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS HERE IN ROCKLIN? WERE THERE ANY FARMERS?"

THERE WERE SOME FARMERS, THERE WEREN'T A REAL LOT OF FARMERS, THE AREA WASN'T REALLY THAT MUCH TOWARD FARMING. SURE, WE HAD A LOT OF FRUIT ORCHARDS, THE FINNS, WHEN THE GRANITE BUSINESS WAS DOWN, QUITE A FEW FINNS RAISED CHICKENS, LIKE THEY SEEM TO HAVE DONE IN ALL THE OTHER AREAS WHERE THE FINNS CONGREGATED. WE HAD FINN RANCHERS, A FEW OF THEM BUT THE MAJORITY OF THEM WORKED IN THE QUARRIES A LOT OF THEM WERE BLACKSMITHS, I SUPPOSE I COULD NAME SEVERAL OF THEM. SOME OF THEM WERE RIGGERS THEY PRETTY MUCH DID ROUNDABOUT WORK,

THE ONLY ONE THAT WAS REALLY SPECIALIZED WAS A STONECUTTER, TO GET A GOOD STONECUTTER, YOU REALLY HAD TO SERVE AN APPRENTICESHIP TO LEARN IT, YOU DIDN'T LEARN IT IN THREE OR FOUR YEARS. IT TOOK MANY YEARS TO LEARN TO BE A REAL STONECUTTER.

"YOU MENTIONED GOING TO COLLEGE, BUT COMING BACK TO THE GRANITE BUSINESS AFTER THAT. DO YOU THINK MANY FINNS WENT TO COLLEGE? WAS THAT A REAL ACCEPTABLE THING, OR WAS IT UNUSAL?"

IT WAS A LITTLE BIT UNUSUAL, I STUDIED FORESTRY IN COLLEGE. EVERYBODY USED TO KIND OF RAZZ ME ABOUT IT, WONDERED WHY I MADE THE BIG SWITCH. WE ALWAYS DID A LOT OF HUNTING AND FISHING, SO AFTER I DECIDED TO GO INTO IT, BUT THEN UNCLE

SAM CAME IN WHEN THE WAR BROKE OUT AND THAT CHANGED ALL THE PLANS.

"WHAT I AM GETTING AT, WERE THERE ANY INTELLECTUALS IN ROCKLIN THAT WERE FINNS, OR WAS IT MOSTLY PEOPLE WHO WORKED IN THE QUARRIES, WORKING CLASS PEOPLE?"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DESCRIPTION OF AN INTELLECTUAL WOULD BE, BUT THE MAJORITY OF THEM WERE WORKING CLASS FINNS. THEY WERE STORE OWNERS AND SO FORTH, SEVERAL OF THEM, LIKE PEKURIS, THAT GOES WAY BACK THE LAST FEW YEARS. THEY OWNED STORES, SOME WORKED IN A BAKERY, ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS,

"FINNS WERE ALL OVER TOWN AS FAR AS OCCUPATIONS?"

OH, YEAH, PRETTY MUCH, I THINK. THE THING IS, THE OCCUPATIONS IN THAT DAY AND NOW IN THIS DAY ARE NOT COMPARABLE. LIKE NOW, HOW MANY OWN GARAGES? WELL, IN THOSE DAYS, THEY DIDN'T HAVE GARAGES. BECAUSE BACK FAR ENOUGH, YOU KNOW. I CAN'T SAY HOW IT WORKED OUT,

"AS YOU WERE GROWING UP IN ROCKLIN, GOING TO SCHOOL HERE, YOU TOLD ME THAT OVER HALF OF ROCKLIN WAS FINNISH."

THAT'S BEFORE I WAS GOING TO SCHOOL. BEFORE I GREW UP THAT THE FINNISH POPULATION WAS HERE. THERE WERE A LOT OF FINNS HERE AROUND 1910, 1915.

"WHEN YOU WERE IN SCHOOL, WHAT WAS IT LIKE HERE, HOW MANY SCHOOLS WERE THERE?"

THERE WAS ONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NO HIGH SCHOOL. THAT'S ALL WE

HAD WAS A GRAMMAR SCHOOL. WE HAD NO AUDITORIUMS. EVERYTHING WE DID TOOK PLACE IN THE FINNISH HALL. FINN HALL WAS WHERE WE PUT ON CHRISTMAS PLAYS, THE GRADUATION EXERCISES. EVERYTHING WAS DONE IN THE FINNISH HALL.

"WHERE DID YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?"

ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL. WHEN I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL WE HAD A BUS THAT TOOK US. THEY STARTED WITH A BUS. BEFORE THAT YOU WERE ON YOUR OWN TO GET TO ROSEVILLE.

"DID THERE USED TO BE A TRAIN THAT TOOK YOU , .?"

OH YEAH, THERE WAS A TRAIN THAT TOOK THEM IN THOSE YEARS. THEY CALLED IT THE SKUNK. I THINK IT STARTED IN COLFAX AND WENT TO ROSEVILLE AND SACRAMENTO. A LOT OF THE KIDS USED TO CATCH THE SKUNK AND GO TO SCHOOL.

"YOU MENTIONED FINN HALL, TELL ME ABOUT THAT, WHAT IS FINN HALL?"

THE FINNISH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY, I THINK IT WAS PROBABLY THE SECOND ONE THAT WAS ORGANIZED. I THINK THE FIRST WAS ORGANIZED HERE IN ROCKLIN BY WHO, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK IT WAS A MIXTURE OF THE POPULATION ABOUT 1880, IF MY HISTORY RECOLLECTION IS CORRECT. THEN THE SECOND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY THAT GOT VERY STRONG CAME ABOUT IN ROCKLIN RIGHT AROUND 1900, AFTER THE CITY WAS INCORPORATED. ROCKLIN WAS INCORPORATED IN AUGUST, 1893, MAYBE IT WAS FEBRUARY. MAYBE I GOT MY DATES WRONG. I CAN LOOK IT UP AND TELL YOU. 1893, SO ROCKLIN WAS A CITY IN ALL THOSE TIMES. TEMPERANCE SOCIETY DECIDED TO BUILD A HALL AND THERE MOSTLY FINNS IN THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY AT THAT TIME. SO IT WAS CALLED THE FINNISH TEMPERANCE HALL, BUILT ABOUT 1905.

BIG WOODEN BUILDING. IT STILL STANDS TO THIS DAY AND IS USED QUITE OFTEN, ALL THE TIME. IT IS IN MUCH DEMAND.

"WHO OWNS FINN HALL NOW?"

THE CITY OWNS IT NOW. ACTUALLY, THE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY OWNED IT AND THEN IT WENT TO THE FINNISH BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY. THEN THEY GOT RID OF IT AND THEN THE ODDFELLOWS OWNED IT. THEY TURNED IT OVER TO THE AMERICAN LEGION. I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT YEAR, I HAPPENED TO BE ON THE CITY COUNCIL AND WE BOUGHT IT IN ABOUT THE EARLY 1960'S, 1965. WE BOUGHT THE FINNISH HALL FROM THEM. NOW THE CITY STILL OWNS IT. SO IT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN, NOW, IN SAFE HANDS.

"WHAT'S THE FINNISH BROTHERHOOD SOCIETY YOU MENTIONED?"

THE FINNISH BROTHERHOOD WAS A GROUP THAT WAS FORMED NATION-WIDE. ACTUALLY, IT'S NATIONWIDE I GUESS. IT'S KIND OF LIKE A CLUB. I NEVER BELONGED TO IT. MY OLDER BROTHER DID. THEY CARRY INSURANCE. YOU GET SICK, THEY PAY YOU A LITTLE BIT OF MONEY TO KEEP YOU ALIVE. IT'S JUST A BROTHERHOOD, REALLY.

"IT STILL EXISTS? ARE THERE STILL MEMBERS IN ROCKLIN?"

I THINK ALL OF THEM HAVE QUIT. THE CLUB IS DECEASED IN ROCKLIN. I THINK IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IT STILL OPERATES.

"SPEAKING OF FINN ACTIVITIES IN ROCKLIN, LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE CHURCHES THAT WERE HERE. WHAT CHURCHES DID FINNS MAINLY ATTEND THAT LIVED HERE?"

WELL, THERE WERE OFFSHOOTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH. MY DAD WAS A MINISTER IN THE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH AND THERE WERE A COUPLE OF OTHER LUTHERAN CHURCHES HERE IN TOWN THAT OPERATED. I WOULDN'T SAY THEY CARRIED A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE, OF THE FINNISH PEOPLE. THEY DID HAVE FAIRLY GOOD ATTENDANCE IN THE EARLY YEARS AND AS THE OLDER PEOPLE DROPPED OUT, A LOT OF THE YOUNGER ONES HAD BEEN INDOCTRINATED TO ENGLISH, SO A LOT OF THEM WENT TO THE OTHER CHURCHES ACROSS TOWN.

SO MANY OF THEM SWITCHED OVER TO THE DIFFERENT AMERICAN CHURCHES,

"HOW DID YOUR FATHER BECOME AN APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN MINISTER, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN HE DID THAT? DID HE DO IT AS A YOUNG MAN?"

I REALLY CAN'T TELL YOU ANY DATES ON THAT. ALL MY LIFE HE WAS PRETTY MUCH IN THE MINISTRY BUT IT WAS ONLY A PART-TIME THING WITH HIM. HE WAS AN ORDAINED MINISTER BUT HE STILL OPERATED THE QUARRY. I SUSPECT THAT HE STARTED THAT IN IN THE 1915 ERA, THOSE YEARS, I THINK. HE USED TO TRAVEL TO THE CONVENTIONS, LIKE THE BOOKS YOU READ, CENTERVILLE, PENDLETON, OREGON, CLATSKANIE, OREGON. THEN HE USED TO GO TO MICHIGAN IN THE SUMMERTIME ONCE-IN-A-WHILE. A TRIP TO SOME BIG CHURCH CONVENTION.

"AND THESE CHURCH CONVENTIONS WERE ALL IN FINNISH?"

YES, LATER YEARS I GUESS THEY DID START TO HAVE SOME ENGLISH SPOKEN IN SOME OF THEM. THEY WOULD HAVE BOTH BUT MOST OF THEM IN THE EARLY DAYS WERE IN FINNISH. AS KIDS, I CAN REMEMBER WE USED TO HAVE A BALL GOING TO THESE CHURCH CONVENTIONS.

"WHERE WAS THE APOSTOLIC LUTHERN CHURCH LOCATED IN ROCKLIN?"

WELL, THE CHURCH THAT MY DAD HAD WAS ACTUALLY LOCATED RIGHT HERE ON LOT THAT IS WHERE MY HOUSE IS. FROM HERE, IN 1919, IT WAS MOVED TO THE CORNER OF OAK AND HIGH STREET, I THINK IT'S OAK STREET IN ROCKLIN. SO WE HAVE OWNED THE PROPERTY HERE SINCE 1919. IT'S THE LOT RIGHT HERE. AND THE REASON MY DAD BOUGHT THE LOT WASN'T SO MUCH, IT WAS ALSO FOR THE CHURCH, BUT PEOPLE USED TO, EVEN IN THOSE DAYS, THEY WOULD GRIPE, THE TRACKS WERE HERE, WHEN THE GATE WAS LEFT OPEN BY THE RAILROAD PEOPLE. THEY WOULDN'T SHUT THE GATE. SO HE BOUGHT THE LOT. THAT'S HOW COME WE OWN THE PROPERTY.

BECAUSE OUR QUARRY WAS ON THE END, SO HE BOUGHT THE LOT AND IF SOMEONE WANTED TO CLOSE THE GATE ON THE OTHER SIDE TO KEEP THEM OFF THE STREET, THAT WAS UP TO THEM.

"LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR OWN FAMILY NOW AND WHEN THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT AND SO FORTH. WHEN DID YOU MEET YOUR WIFE, AND I GUESS THE MAIN QUESTION HERE IS, IS SHE ALSO A FINN?"

NO, I MET MY WIFE AT OREGON STATE COLLEGE, ABOUT 1940. I GRADUATED IN 1942, JUNE, AND WE WERE MARRIED IN AUGUST OF 1942. SHE WAS A SWEDE. SHE WAS BORN IN PORTLAND, RAISED IN KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON. WE HAVE FIVE KIDS, FIVE CHILDREN. BUT WE WERE MARRIED DURING THE WAR. SHE WAS BACK IN OKLAHOMA AT FORT SILL WITH ME. BECAUSE I TAUGHT SCHOOL BACK THERE, IN THE ARMY FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS, IN THE ARTILLARY SCHOOL. SO OUR OLDEST BOY WAS BORN IN 1947, I'M GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE TRYING TO TELL YOU THE DATES. I QUIT.

"THAT'S GOOD. THE OLDEST ONE WOULD GIVE US AN IDEA. HOW AWARE WERE YOUR CHILDREN OF BEING SCANDINAVIAN PEOPLE?"

IS THERE AN AWARENESS OF THAT IN YOUR FAMILY? AS THEY GREW UP, WAS THERE MUCH EMPHASIS ON THAT?"

OH, I GUESS THERE WAS. THE KIDS I GREW UP WITH WERE FINNISH, WE ASSOCIATED WITH THESE PEOPLE BUT WE ASSOCIATED WITH EVERYBODY. BUT THEY KNEW THEY WERE FINN AND SWEDISH. THEY WOULD GET IT THROWN AT THEM EVERY ONCE-IN-A-WHILE, I IMAGINE. ESPECIALLY WITH THE NAME OF RUHKALA, SOMEONE'S GOT TO KNOW IT.

"DID THEY KNOW ANY FINNISH OR SWEDISH WORDS, KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?"

THEY DID WHEN THEY WERE SMALLER. IF YOU DUG IT OUT OF THEM, THEY COULD STILL PROBABLY BUT WE NEVER DID REALLY TEACH THEM THE LANGUAGE. I GUESS IT'S TOO BAD WE DIDN'T. THERE WASN'T THAT MUCH FINNISH SPOKEN. SINCE PEG'S SWEDISH AND I'M FINNISH, I SPEAK FINNISH BUT SHE DOESN'T SPEAK SWEDISH, SO WHEN WE TRAVEL OVER THERE, WE GO AROUND BUT MY WIFE, PEGGY CAN UNDERSTAND SWEDISH BUT SHE WON'T SPEAK IT.

"HAVE YOU TRAVELED OVER THERE?"

OH YES, A COUPLE, THREE TIMES.

"HAVE YOU VISITED THE PLACES THAT YOUR PARENTS WERE BORN?"

YEAH. I'VE SEEN THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY WERE AND EVERYTHING.

"HOW DID YOU RELATE TO IT WHEN YOU WERE IN FINLAND, DID YOU FEEL PART OF IT ALL IN SOME WAY?"

THERE WAS HARDLY ANYONE LEFT WHERE MY DAD IS FROM BUT WHERE

MY MOTHER IS FROM, SHE HAD A BROTHER THAT WAS STILL ALIVE WHEN WE WENT THERE IN 1963, 1964. HE WAS 90 YEARS OLD. HE'S STILL RUNNING AROUND ON HIS BICYCLE. HE HAD BEEN A MERCHANT IN THAT AREA. HE BOUGHT SUPPLIES AND THEN HE SOLD THEM TO ALL THE LAPLANDERS IN THAT COUNTRY AND HE OPERATED AS A MERCHANT. IN THE EARLY DAYS THEY USED TO BRING IN SUPPLIES BY SHIP TO NORWAY AND DOWN THE RIVER THAT WAS BETWEEN FINLAND AND SWEDEN TO GET IN THEIR SUPPLIES. SO THEY WORKED PRETTY HARD TO DO IT.

HE WAS A GO-BETWEEN FOR SELLING THEIR REINDEER. IT MADE YOU FEEL AT HOME, REAL GOOD, BECAUSE WHEN I GOT THERE I COULD SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, RIGHT AWAY. HE HAD TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER. THE SONS ALL LIVED AT HOME. THEY WEREN'T MARRIED. THEIR DAUGHTER WAS MARRIED AND SHE LIVED UP THE STREET. THEY HAD A COMPARITIVELY, I THINK, IN THIS DAY AND AGE, A PRETTY EASY LIFE.

"YOUR MOTHER'S BROTHER THAT WAS STILL ALIVE AND HIS LIFE THERE?"

IT WAS INTERESTING. MY WIFE AND I WERE BOTH THERE, TOGETHER THAT TRIP. EVERYTHING FIT RIGHT IN. THE ONLY THING THAT WAS LEFT WAS A STEAM BATH, FROM THE ERA THAT MY MOTHER WAS THERE. THE RUSSIANS AND THE GERMANS HAD BEEN THROUGH THAT AREA. THE GERMANS HAD BEEN THROUGH AND THEY HAD FLATTENED EVERYTHING. THEY HAD SAVED THE STOVE. WHEN THE GERMANS CAME IN, THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD SAVE THINGS THERE, WAS THEY DUG A HOLE AND BURIED THEM IN THE GROUND. THEY PRESERVED THEM AND BURIED EVERYTHING BECAUSE THE GERMANS WENT THROUGH AND FLATTENED EVERY BUILDING AND POISONED THE WELLS. THEY DID NOT DESTROY THE STEAM BATH. FOR SOME REASON, THAT BUILDING WAS ONE REMAINING. SO, I WAS TAKING A STEAM BATH IN THE SAME BUILDING

THAT HAD STOOD FOR A LONG, MANY YEARS,

"WHAT IS THE FINNISH THING ABOUT THE STEAM BATH, OR SAUNA, AS WE CALL IT? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS, CULTURALLY, THAT MAKES IT SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING? I GUESS WHAT I AM GETTING AT, WERE THERE A LOT OF THEM IN ROCKLIN, DID THE FINNS HERE HAVE THEM?"

THE FINNS HERE, WE HAD OUR OWN STEAM BATH, LOTS OF PEOPLE HAD THEIR OWN STEAM BATHS. AND THERE WERE A COUPLE OF PUBLIC BATHS. THE KOSTIS ACTUALLY HAD A PUBLIC BATH UP HERE THAT PEOPLE USED FOR MANY YEARS.

"DESCRIBE WHAT A STEAM BATH IS? WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?"

A STEAM BATH IS JUST A, A NICE STEAM BATH HAS A DRESSING ROOM YOU GO IN. THE MEN GO IN ONE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AND THE WOMEN ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING, GENERALLY. YOU HAVE THE DRESSING ROOM, THEN YOU GO INTO ANOTHER ROOM THAT MAY BE, MOST OF THEM WERE ABOUT PRETTY GOOD SIZED ROOMS, ACTUALLY. THEY WERE PROBABLY EIGHT BY TEN OR EIGHT BY EIGHT.

AN EIGHT FOOT HIGH CEILING. BUT THEN THEY HAD A BENCH THAT WAS BUILT UP SO YOUR HEAD WAS JUST AT THE CEILING HEIGHT TO GET THE BENEFIT OF THE STEAM. THE STEAM RISES. INSIDE THERE WAS A STOVE, A COMPLETELY ENCLOSED FIRE BOX AND THE METAL ON TOP HAD ROCKS ON IT, RIVER ROCKS. WHEN THEY GOT HOT, WHEN THEY WERE REAL HOT, THEN YOU POURED WATER ON THEM, AND MADE IT WET STEAM. AND IF YOU GOT UP, YOU USUALLY HAVE A BUCKET OF WATER WITH YOU ON THE BENCH. YOU JUST SPLASH A LITTLE WATER ON THERE AND THE STEAM WOULD COME UP AND OPEN UP YOUR PORES.

"WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE STEAM BATH? WAS IT FOR HEALTH, WAS IT SOCIAL?"

OH, SURE IT GOT YOU REAL CLEAN, YOU FELT REAL CLEAN WHEN YOU CAME OUT. AND THERE WAS PROBABLY, I DON'T KNOW IF THERE WAS SO MUCH SOCIAL, THERE WAS, I GUESS, IN SOME OF THE PUBLIC BATHS AND THERE IS TODAY. PEOPLE GET TOGETHER AND HAVE THIS. MY SISTER THAT LIVES IN IDAHO, WE STILL DO IT. FACT IS, THERE WERE ABOUT SIX OF US AT A TIME IN THE STEAM BATH UP THERE.

AFTER THE STEAM BATH, EVERYBODY BRINGS CAKES AND NISUA AND EVERYTHING. YOU HAVE COFFEE AND DESSERT AFTER YOU COME OUT OF THE STEAM BATH.

"WAS THERE A CERTAIN DAY OF THE WEEK THAT YOU USUALLY USED IT?"

GENERALLY, SATURDAY EVENING IS WHEN IT TAKES PLACE. BUT THERE WERE QUITE A FEW OF THEM AND WE USED TO HAVE OURS AT HOME. WE WOULD HEAT IT TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK BECAUSE WE WERE WORKING AND WE HAD MODERNIZED OURS TO WHERE WE HAD A SHOWER AND EVERYTHING TOO. SO WE COULD GO TO WORK AND THEN COME HOME AND TAKE A SHOWER RIGHT AWAY. IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER THE STEAM WAS ON OR NOT.

IF SOMEONE WAS IN A HURRY, WE WOULD ALL RAISE CAIN BECAUSE HE WOULD COOL OFF THE STEAM BATH. YOU TURN THE COLD SHOWER ON. ANYWAY, WE WOULD TAKE A SHOWER. WE MADE A FEW CHANGES IN OURS THAT THE OLDTIMERS DIDN'T. BUT WE TOOK THEM TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK. A LOT OF TIMES WE WOULD COME OUT OF THE SHOWER AND DIVE IN, WE HAD A QUARRY HOLE FULL OF WATER RIGHT NEAR AND WE WOULD GO SWIMMING RIGHT OUT OF THE STEAM BATH.

THAT'S WHAT WE DID IN FINLAND TOO. YOU WOULD COME OUT OF THE STEAM BATH AND DIVE RIGHT INTO THE SEA, IN THE COLD WATER. YOU DON'T EVEN FEEL THE COLD WATER AT FIRST UNTIL YOU'RE IN IT A MINUTE OR TWO AND THEN YOU COME OUT OF THE WATER AND GO RIGHT BACK INTO THE STEAM BATH. YOUR TEMPERATURE IS REAL HIGH AND THEN IT GOES DOWN, REAL COLD. I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOOD IT DOES, IT MAKES YOUR BLOOD BOIL A LITTLE, I GUESS.

"IT SEEMS LOGICAL IN A CLIMATE LIKE FINLAND TO HAVE A HOT, STEAM BATH LIKE THAT. IN CALIFORNIA IT SEEMS UNUSUAL TO ME THAT THE FINNS IN ROCKLIN CONTINUED THAT CUSTOM IN A HOT CLIMATE."

THEY DID, THOUGH. I WOULD SAY THAT PROBABLY, I THINK ELMER SANDWICH BUILT OUR STEAM BATH. AND I'VE THREATENED TO BUILD ONE.

"THAT WAS MY NEXT QUESTION. YOU DON'T HAVE ONE TODAY, THEN?"

NO, I DON'T HAVE ONE TODAY.

"WHEN DID YOU STOP USING THEM, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?"

WE STOPPED USING THEM PROBABLY FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. THE ONE AT THE HOME PLACE WENT TO POT SO WE QUIT USING IT BUT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT BUILDING ONE. THERE ARE VERY FANCY ONES NOW. THEY HAVE A LOT OF THEM IN SWEDEN TOO, JUST LIKE IN THIS COUNTRY, ALL OVER; HOTELS AND SO FORTH. SOME OF THEM USE DRY STEAM TOO. THEY DON'T POUR WATER ON ROCKS, AS SUCH. THEY HEAT THE ROCKS.

"WAS IT JUST A FINNISH CUSTOM IN THE EARLY DAYS OR DID YOUR WIFE'S FAMILY, WAS SWEDEN ALSO INVOLVED?"

NOT IN THE EARLY DAYS. I DON'T THINK THE SWEDES WERE INVOLVED EXCEPT ALONG THE BORDERS; I GUESS THEY OVERLAPPED.

"I WAS WONDERING, I'VE HEARD ABOUT STEAM BATHS BEING A SOCIAL EVENT BUT ALSO ABOUT STRONG COFFEE. WAS COFFEE AN IMPORTANT PART OF CELEBRATION WITH THE FINNISH? IS THAT TRUE? I WAS WONDERING ABOUT FOODS AND THINGS THAT WERE SERVED SOCIALLY."

THEY DRINK A LOT OF COFFEE IN FINLAND.

"DID THAT SEEM TO CARRY OVER TO LIFE IN ROCKLIN?"

I THINK SO. WE HAD COFFEE EVERY AFTERNOON, WHEN WE GOT HOME FROM WORK AT 4:30, WE HAD COFFEE, WE ALSO HAD COFFEE AT 10.00, EITHER THEY WOULD BRING IT TO THE QUARRY OR YOU CARRIED YOUR OWN TO WORK. SOME OF THE STONE CUTTERS CARRIED THEIR OWN COFFEE TO WORK EVERY DAY. ABOUT 10:00 IN THE MORNING THEY HAD THEIR COFFEE, AND THEN AT 4:30 WE ALWAYS HAD COFFEE WAITING FOR US.

"WAS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THE GROCERY STORES, THE RESTAURANTS IN ROCKLIN THAT A PERSON COULD TELL A LOT OF FINNS LIVED HERE? IN TERMS OF THE FOODS OF THE DRINKS THAT WERE SERVED?"

THEY USED TO HAVE THE FINNISH BREADS BUT IN LATER YEARS IT WAS ALL MANUFACTURED IN BERKELEY, AND THAT AREA; EL CERRITO OR BERKELEY, I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH CITY, AND IT WAS DELIVERED UP HERE. BUT THEY USED TO HAVE THAT IN THE STORES ALL THE TIME.

"WHAT GROCERY STORES WERE IN ROCKLIN WHEN YOU WERE REALLY YOUNG?"

PEKURIS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN ONES, EDGARS HAD A STORE, EDGARS WASN'T FINNISH, PEKURI WAS FINNISH, I THINK THEY WERE ABOUT THE MAIN GROCERY STORES. THEN WE HAD A COUPLE OF SPANISH STORES, PLACER MARKET AND SOME OF THOSE IN TOWN THAT TOOK OVER, BUT IN THOSE YEARS AND LATER YEARS WE HAD RED & WHITE WAS AN OLD STORE THAT WAS IN TOWN. IN MY ERA,

"IN YOUR TIME, WHAT OTHER KINDS OF STORES WERE IN ROCKLIN? WHAT OTHER KINDS OF BUILDINGS, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS?"

THERE WEREN'T TOO MANY BUILDINGS, ACTUALLY IN MY TIME. WE HAD SOME GARAGES, SERVICE STATIONS, WE HAD SALOONS, BARS, BUT DURING PROHIBITION YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THAT. DURING PROHIBITION THAT WAS OUT, GROCERY STORES, ICE CREAM PARLORS, WHAT ELSE. GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

"WHAT WERE SOME OF THE SOCIAL EVENTS THAT WENT ON AS YOU WERE GROWING UP, AS FAR AS THE FINNS? DID PEOPLE GET TOGETHER IN GROUPS? WERE THERE SPECIAL EVENTS GOING ON IN ROCKLIN?"

I GUESS THE PICNICS CARRIED ON, EARLY, EARLY YEARS THEY USED TO GO TO SOINTULAS. THEN WE WENT DOWN HERE TO THE CHINA GARDENS WHEN I WAS A KID. THEY WERE MORE DOWN IN THE CHINA GARDENS IS WHERE THE MEETINGS WERE. BEFORE THAT, IN THE EARLY DAYS, 1910, 1915, THEY USED TO GO TO SOINTULAS. YOU COULDN'T DRIVE. YOU HAD TO WALK THERE, PRETTY MUCH,

"WHAT IS SOINTULAS?"

SOINTULAS IS THE NAME OF A FINN WHO OWNED THE PROPERTY, REALLY. HE KNEW THERE WAS A QUARRY ON IT. THERE WERE A COUPLE OF COPPS QUARRIES OVER THERE AND IT'S AN AREA

RIGHT ON THE CREEK THAT PICKED UP THAT NAME. THERE IS A SPRING BEYOND IT, A RUNNING SPRING. THE AREA DOESN'T HAVE ANY HOUSES ON IT AT THIS TIME. HOBART MILL HAD A DAM ON THE CREEK SO EVERYBODY SWAM THERE. IT WAS A GOOD SWIMMING HOLE AND IT WENT UP THE CREEK ABOUT 100 YARDS OR MORE. IT WAS A GOOD SWIMMING HOLE IN OUR TIME.

"WERE THERE FINN PICNICS?"

THERE WERE FINN PICNICS, YES. I DON'T KNOW IF THE BROTHERHOOD PUT THEM ON AS MUCH AS ANYBODY. PEOPLE CAME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY IN THIS AREA. IN THE EARLY DAYS THEY USED TO HAVE PICNICS IN ROCKLIN. ROCKLIN WAS ALWAYS NOTED FOR PICNICS. THEY USED TO COME FROM THE BAY AREA, ACTUALLY. SOMETIMES THEY WOULD HAVE BIG CELEBRATIONS AND THEY WOULD COME BY TRAIN FROM SACRAMENTO TO HERE IN ROCKLIN. ROCKLIN WAS GETTING OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS IN THE EARLY, EARLY DAYS.

"WERE THERE A LOT OF FINNS IN THE BAY AREA AND IN SACRAMENTO IN THOSE DAYS?"

BERKELEY WAS A GOOD FINN CENTER. QUITE A FEW FINNS IN THAT AREA. SACRAMENTO, I DON'T THINK WAS NOTED FOR FINNS. IN THIS AREA, RIGHT HERE. I THINK THE OTHER DIRECTION WAS FORT BRAGG TO THE NORTH AND REEDLEY TO THE SOUTH. THOSE WERE THE MAIN FINN CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA, AS FAR AS I KNOW. THERE WERE SOME FINNS THAT WERE SCATTERED, LOGGERS AROUND HOBART MILLS AT ONE TIME. I'VE HEARD OF A FEW UP THERE AND SOME SWEDES WERE UP THERE, LOGGING IN 1914 AND 1915, IN THOSE YEARS. THIS WAS THE MAIN AREA FOR THE FINNISH POPULATION.

"YOU MENTIONED THE SPANISH WERE HERE WITH STORES. WHAT OTHER KINDS OF PEOPLE LIVED HERE AS YOU WERE GROWING UP?"

BESIDES FINNS, THE IRISH WERE HERE, IN THE WAY EARLY YEARS. IT WAS A MIXED POPULATION, ACTUALLY. THE FINNS CAME IN AND THERE WERE A LOT OF THEM. IN THE 1910'S, ABOUT 1905 TO 1915 IS WHEN THE SPANISH POPULATION CAME TO ROCKLIN.

"WERE THEY MEXICAN?"

NOPE. SPANISH. THEY CAME FROM SPAIN. A LOT OF THEM WENT TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. AND THEN FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS THEY CAME TO CALIFORNIA. THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN. THEN WE HAD THE JAPANESE. WE HAD AN EARLY INFLUX OF JAPANESE INTO CALIFORNIA BACK THEN, THE GOLD RUSH DAYS. THEN LATER, AROUND 1910 OR SO, WHEN IMMIGRATION ALLOWED, THEY CAME TO ROCKLIN IN THIS AREA. IN ROCKLIN, LOOMIS, PENRYN, THIS AREA. THEY WERE MOSTLY FRUIT FARMERS.

THE SPANISH WERE HEAVY ON THE FARMING. NOT MANY OF THEM WENT INTO THE QUARRY BUSINESS, VERY FEW OF THE SPANISH. I RECEIVE LETTERS ONCE-IN-A-WHILE FROM PEOPLE TRACING THEIR HISTORY AND THEIR FOLKS WERE STONECUTTERS IN ROCKLIN, THEIR RELATIONS. THIS ONE SPANISH MAN WROTE TO ME, BACK IN 1895 HIS DAD WAS A STONECUTTER IN ROCKLIN.

"HOW DID ALL THESE PEOPLE GET ALONG? I GUESS WHAT I AM GETTING AT HERE, DID THE FINNS EVER SUFFER ANY DISCRIMINATION OR PROBLEMS WITH EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF THEIR NATIONALITY? HOW DID THE PEOPLE MIX IN ROCKLIN DURING THOSE DAYS?"

I THINK THE PEOPLE GOT ALONG REAL GOOD. COMPARED TO OTHER AREAS I HAVE READ ABOUT, I DON'T THINK, THE FINNS INTEGRATED SO MUCH WITH THE AMERICANS THAT I DON'T THINK THERE WAS A BIG PROBLEM. IN SOME AREAS, YOU CROSS A STREET AND YOU WERE IN IRISH COUNTRY OR FINN COUNTRY. THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE HERE.

I HAD HEARD REMARKS. MY OLDEST BROTHER USED TO SAY, ONCE IN-A-WHILE YOU GO OVER THERE AND IT'S TOUGH BUT ACTUALLY, THIS WAS NO PROBLEM, I DON'T THINK.

"DO YOU LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS? DO THE FINNS LIVE IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE SPANISH IN ANOTHER? HOW WAS ROCKLIN SETTLED?"

I WOULDN'T SAY THEY LIVED IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD SO MUCH, ALTHOUGH THE EAST SIDE OF TOWN, ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE TRACKS THE MAJORITY OF FINNS LIVED. THERE WERE SOME FINNS LIVING ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE TRACKS. I DON'T THINK IT WAS A DEFINITE LINE. PROBABLY FROM JUST BEING ABLE TO VISIT THEIR NEIGHBORS, SETTLED A LITTLE BIT CLOSER TOGETHER. THEY WERE SCATTERED PRETTY MUCH FROM THE END OF SOUTH GROVE TO THE END OF NORTH GROVE IN ROCKLIN. THAT WAS ACTUALLY THE OUTSKIRTS OF ROCKLIN IN THOSE EARLY DAYS. FROM THE CEMETERY NORTH, WE HAD SOME OF THE FINNS THAT WERE PRETTY MUCH SETTLED UP GROVE STREET AND UP IN THROUGH TOWN.

"SO THEY WEREN'T IN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD?"

NO, THEY WEREN'T IN ONE LITTLE GROUP AT ALL.

"DID YOU EVER HAVE ANY EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF YOUR BACKGROUND? DID YOU EVER FEEL THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM OR A HIRING PROBLEM OR ANYTHING BECAUSE OF YOUR NATIONALITY?"

NO, I ALWAYS FIGURED I HAD A JUMP ON EVERYBODY. NO, I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF ANYBODY THAT HAS EVER BEEN DISCRIMINATED BY NATIONALITY AT ALL, IN ROCKLIN ESPECIALLY. A COUPLE OF TIMES SPANISH PEOPLE HAVE SAID IT BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN A PROBLEM FOR EMPLOYMENT. EDUCATION MAY ENTER INTO IT, YOU KNOW, IT'S

A TYPICAL THING THAT SOME JOBS MAY REQUIRE MORE EDUCATION AND THAT PROBABLY WOULD AFFECT SOME PEOPLE. I DON'T THINK IT'S BEEN NATIONALITY,

"IS THERE A GENERAL ATTITUDE ABOUT EDUCATION AMONG THE FINNS THAT YOU MIGHT COMMENT ON? DID YOUR FAMILY HAVE A CERTAIN ATTITUDE ABOUT IT?"

YES, MOST OF THE PARENTS REALIZED THAT THE KIDS SHOULD BE EDUCATED. I DON'T THINK IT WAS A PROBLEM HERE OF LETTING THE KIDS GO TO SCHOOL SIX, EIGHT YEARS AND THEN TAKING THEM OUT. BUT I THINK EVERYBODY HERE PRETTY MUCH WENT TO SCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. SOME OF THE OLDER ONES MAY NOT HAVE FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL BUT THEY ALL HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SCHOOL, GIRLS TOO. MORE OF THE WOMEN WENT ONTO MORE EDUCATION THAN, I THINK, THE MEN. ACTUALLY, THEY WENT TO BUSINESS SCHOOL AND SO FORTH.

EVEN IN OUR FAMILY EVERY ONE OF THE CHILDREN WENT TO COLLEGE OR ONES OF THEIR CHOICE OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER.

"SO WOULD YOU SAY, EVEN AMONG THE OLDER GENERATION THE LITERACY RATE WAS HIGH AMONG THE FINNS, MOST OF THEM COULD READ AND WRITE?"

YES, I THINK MOST OF THEM COULD READ AND WRITE. FACT IS, IN THE OLD DAYS I'VE HEARD THAT THEY HAD TO READ AND WRITE TO VOTE IN FINLAND. SO THEY DID HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL. I'M QUITE SURE THEIR LITERACY RATE IS REAL HIGH NOW.

"HOW ABOUT YOUR PARENT'S ABILITY TO READ AND WRITE IN ENGLISH, WAS IT EVER A PROBLEM? WHEN I SAY LITERACY, I WONDER ABOUT THE ENGLISH PART OF IT,"

NO, THEY COULD WRITE. MY DAD WAS IN BUSINESS SO HE WOULD SURPRISE US. IF WE WERE AROUND HIM WHEN HE WAS CONDUCTING BUSINESS, WE WERE VERY SURPRISED AT THE ENGLISH WORDS THAT HE KNEW THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW. HE DIDN'T LET ON THAT HE KNEW THAT MUCH WHEN HE WAS AT HOME SO OFTEN BUT WE WERE SURPRISED BY WHAT HE WOULD SAY. NO, DAD COULD WRITE AND HE DIDN'T HAVE THE BEST HAND IN ENGLISH BUT HE HAD DAUGHTERS AND SONS THAT COULD WRITE,

MOTHER COULD WRITE. SHE WPOKE ENGLISH. SHE KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON ALL THE TIME,

"WHAT'S THE LANGUAGE CALLED 'FINGLISH' ABOUT? DID I SAY THAT RIGHT?"

THAT'S KIND OF. THE REASON IS THAT SINCE FOLKS CAME TO THIS COUNTRY LIKE MY FOLKS IN THE 1890'S AND THEY LIVED HERE AND TALKED ENGLISH AND LEARNED ENGLISH AND TALKED FINNISH. THEN THEY GOT SO GOOD AT TALKING ENGLISH THAT THEY WOULD HARDLY KNOW WHICH LANGUAGE THEY WERE SPEAKING IN SOMETIMES. IT'S LIKE, OH LOT'S OF WORDS . . (SPEAKS 'FINGLISH') THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL 'FINGLISH'. BRUSA, THAT'S PUSH: BABY BUGGY YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

"AND THEY UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER?"

YEAH. THAT'S THE WAY THE OTHER PEOPLE WOULD SAY IT. BUT WHEN YOU GET AWAY FROM THE FINN, THAT WAS THE MAIN THING. ALTHOUGH I FOUND OUT WHEN I WENT TO FINLAND THAT MOST OF THE OLD FINNISH YOU LEARN WAS PRETTY GOOD FINNISH. BECAUSE WHEN I GOT THERE AND THEY TALKED TO ME, THEY USED WORDS THAT CAME BACK TO ME INSTANTLY. I HAD NOT USED THEM FOR 15 YEARS.

I KNEW THE MEANING OF THEM IMMEDIATELY. TO THIS DAY, I DON'T THINK IN ENGLISH AND TRANSLATE TO FINNISH. WHEN I SPEAK FINNISH IT AUTOMATICALLY COMES. IT'S NOT A TRANSLATION.

"AND THE FINNISH HADN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH WHEN YOU WENT TO FINLAND, IT WAS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME?"

IT WAS STILL QUITE A BIT THE SAME. THEY HAD LOTS OF NEW WORDS IN FINLAND. I HAD FORGOTTEN SOME, THAT'S THE BIG PROBLEM WAS THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN SO MUCH FINNISH. BUT I MANAGED TO GET ALONG.

"WHEN DO YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO SPEAK FINNISH NOW? HOW FREQUENTLY ARE YOU ABLE TO USE IT?"

ANY TIME I SEE A BROTHER.

"DO YOU SPEAK FINNISH WITH EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN IN ENGLISH OR JUST FOR FUN?"

OH NO, JUST FOR FUN WE'LL TALK IN FINNISH. SOME OF OUR BUDDIES, LIKE AND I WILL GET TOGETHER AND WE'LL TALK FINN. THE WIVES DON'T UNDERSTAND IT SO WE CAN TALK. NOBODY SPEAKS MUCH FINNISH ANYMORE.

"BUT IT DOES COME BACK TO YOU?"

YEAH, IT COMES BACK. IT'S JUST LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE, YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER.

"WHAT'S SPECIAL FOR YOU ABOUT BEING A FINN? DO YOU FEEL FINNISH OR AMERICAN? IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ABOUT THAT?"

OH WELL, WE'RE AMERICANIZED TO THE POINT, FINLAND IS SOMETHING GOOD TO COME FROM. WE DON'T EVEN CONSIDER THAT PART OF IT.

"YOU FEEL REAL POSITIVE ABOUT?"

AMERICANISM, SURE. IT'S A FINNISH HERITAGE JUST LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE. IF YOU COME TO THIS COUNTRY THAT'S THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE. THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT THE MEXICAN THING, AND THE BALLOTS IN TWO LANGUAGES. TO ME, IF THEY WANT TO LIVE HERE AND ADOPT THIS COUNTRY THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

"IS THAT HOW THE FINNS FEEL?"

THAT'S RIGHT, YES, DEFINITELY. YES, MY FOLKS DEFINITELY ADOPTED THIS COUNTRY AND THERE WAS NO IF'S ANDS OR BUTS.

"THEY NEVER CAME HERE WITH THE SENSE OF GOING HOME?"

NO. THEY CAME TO THIS COUNTRY TO STAY, JUST LIKE MY WIFE'S FOLKS FROM SWEDEN AND ALL THOSE OLDTIMERS CAME HERE, MOST OF THEM. NOW YOU READ ABOUT SOME OF THE FINNS THAT THINK ABOUT RETIRING BACK IN FINLAND OR SOMETHING BUT I HAVE KNOWN SOME THAT HAVE GONE BACK, EVEN TO SWEDEN, AND THEY CAME BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. THEY DIDN'T STAY. THERE IS ALWAYS GOSSIP THAT RUNS RAMPANT. MEDICARE WAS ALWAYS A BIG THING. SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE 'FREE' MEDICINE. WELL, THAT'S FINE BUT YOU DON'T LIVE IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE EITHER.

"SO MANY OF THEM CAME BACK AFTER A TIME."

SURE.

"BUT THE FINNS THAT CAME TO ROCKLIN HAD THE IDEA OF STAYING WHEN THEY CAME HERE?"

I THINK MOST OF THEM DID.

"WAS IT A STABLE POPULATION? DID A LOT OF PEOPLE MOVE OUT ONCE THEY CAME? DID THEY JUST VISIT?"

I THINK ROCKLIN WAS A VERY STABLE POPULATION. UNTIL THE YOUNGER GENERATION MOVED AWAY TO GREENER FIELDS TO THE CITY, LIKE THE WOMEN WENT TO BUSINESS COLLEGE AND THEY GOT GOOD JOBS. AND THEN THEY GOT OLDER, THEY MARRIED AND HAD GRAND-KIDS AND THEN SOME OF THE FAMILIES MOVED BACK TO THE CITY TO BE NEAR THEIR CHILDREN. NOW SOME OF THE CHILDREN HAD MOVED AWAY AND NOW THEY ARE STARTING TO MOVE BACK TO ROCKLIN, FOR RETIREMENT, NOT ROCKLIN, BUT PLACER AND EASTERN SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CITRUS HEIGHTS, FAIR OAKS, AUBURN; WE'RE GETTING QUITE A FEW OF THE FINNS MOVING BACK, REALLY.

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT WAS A STABLE FEELING?"

IT WAS PRETTY MUCH OF A STABLE POPULATION. WE DIDN'T HAVE PEOPLE MOVING IN AND OUT ALL THE TIME. THE QUARRIES KEPT OPERATING BUT THEN WHEN THE QUARRIES SLOWED DOWN, SOME OF THE OLDTIMERS WERE FAST REACHING RETIREMENT AGE BUT SOME OF THEM WENT INTO RAISING CHICKENS. THEY MOVED FROM THE QUARRIES TO RAISING CHICKENS. BECAUSE THE BUSINESS IN THE QUARRIES STOPPED DURING THE DEPRESSION. JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE,

"THEY DIDN'T LEAVE ROCKLIN?"

A LOT OF THEM DID LEAVE ROCKLIN. IT WASN'T A BIG, MASS

EXODUS TO SOMEPLACE BECAUSE EVERY PLACE WAS PROBABLY THE SAME, AND THEY KNEW IT. LOT OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION, LIKE I SAY, THEY MOVED. EVEN MY AGE GROUP. SOME OF THEM WENT TO THE BAY AREA TO WORK IN VALLEJO AND ALL THOSE PLACES.

"WHAT ABOUT TODAY? IS THERE STILL A LOT OF FINN ACTIVITY TODAY IN ROCKLIN? HOW HAS ROCKLIN CHANGED IN THE 1980'S COMPARED TO THE EARLY DAYS? IS IT A DIFFERENT SORT OF PLACE NOW?"

YES, IT'S GETTING DIFFERENT. IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO DO WITH THE FINNS ANY MORE. THERE ARE STILL QUITE A FEW OF US AROUND. THERE ARE SECOND AND THIRD GENERATIONS OF FINNS. THERE IS QUITE A GROUP. WE DO PUT ON THE OLDTIMERS REUNION. MY WIFE AND I PUT THAT ON MEMORIAL DAY AND HELEN KESKY IS INVOLVED AND SOME OTHERS WE HAVE QUITE A FEW FINNS COME BACK FROM THE CITIES TO ROCKLIN FOR A REUNION. BUT IT'S AMERICAN AND ALL THE OLDTIMERS SO WE DON'T LIMIT IT TO ANY NATIONALITY. I JUST STATED THAT A LOT OF THEM ARE FINNISH DESCENT. THEY COME BACK FOR THAT.

THE FINLANDIA CLUB IN THE SACRAMENTO REGION HAS BEEN MEETING IN FINN HALL. THEY STARTED MEETING THERE TWO YEARS AGO. ACTUALLY, THERE IS VERY LITTLE THAT TAKES PLACE THAT IS REALLY OF FINNISH ORIGIN. EVERYTHING NOW IS AMERICANIZED. IT'S AMERICA, IT'S NOT ANY NATIONALITY MIXTURE.

"HOW IS ROCKLIN DIFFERENT, THE TOWN. AS YOU WERE GROWING UP? IS IT QUITE A DIFFERENT PLACE NOW? IS IT A LOT BIGGER?"

OH YES. IT'S A LOT BIGGER. WHEN I WAS A KID THE POPULATION DROPPED TO ABOUT 360-370. NOW IT'S 7,000-8,000. EIGHT

THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED, I GUESS.

"WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT'S BRINGING PEOPLE IN?"

SUBDIVISIONS. LEAVING THE BIG CITIES AND COMING UP TO ROCKLIN.

"DO MOST OF THEM WORK IN ROCKLIN?"

NOT TOO MUCH WORK IN ROCKLIN. THERE ARE SOME MILLS, FIBERBOARD AND SO FORTH. SIERRA COLLEGE. THE MAIN THING WE'RE FINDING OUT IS THAT SO MANY OF THE PEOPLE GOT DISGUSTED WITH THE CITY. THEY HAVE MOVED TO THE COUNTRY. ROCKLIN IS COUNTRY TO THEM. BUT THE WORST OF IT IS THAT THEY WANT ALL THE SERVICES THEY HAD IN THE CITY SO THEY ARE TRYING TO BUILD ROCKLIN BACK INTO WHAT THEY CAME FROM. AND THIS IS THE SORRY PART OF IT,

IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. ALL THE OLDTIMERS THAT LIVED HERE REALIZE THAT THE CITY IS GOING TO GROW. PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY, THE OLDTIMERS FIGHT IT. BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE. IT'S THE NEWTIMERS THAT FIGHT THE GROWTH. WE KNOW IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

"MR. RUHKALA, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES OF ROCKLIN WITH THE HISTORY CENTER."